



New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual

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Vision Care

9-30-80

CP&P promotes appropriate eye care and early detection of visual difficulties for children under its supervision.

A child may need a professional eye examination if one of the following occurs:

- The eyes turn in or out;
- Difficulties with school work;
- Complaints of aching, smarting or tired eyes;
- The eyes are inflamed;
- Complaints of headaches; or
- Vision is found defective by a visual screening test.

When a child under CP&P supervision who is not Medicaid eligible has vision problems, the child, parent, or caregiver is given information and referral services by CP&P to obtain appropriate vision care. This may include referral to the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

A child who receives EPSDT services receives a vision screening examination as a part of the program. Medicaid will pay for one eye examination per year for Medicaid eligible children between the ages of 1 through 18 yrs.

Vision screening examinations and comprehensive eye examinations are done without prior authorization from Medicaid. The examination may be made by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

Medicaid requires that the following professional vision services receive prior authorization:

- Visual training;
- Out-of-office visits, except emergencies;
- Subnormal vision examinations (condition when vision in the better eye is 20/70 or less with the best correction);
- Frequent screening and/or comprehensive eye examinations; and
- All other professional services not specified.

Medicaid requires that the following optical appliances receive prior authorization:

- Contact lenses;
- Artificial eyes;
- Subnormal vision devices;
- Dual pairs of glasses;
- Visual training devices;
- Replacement of optical appliances;
- Repairs to optical appliances exceeding the allowed amount (\$5.00); and
- All other optical appliances not listed (number coded) or requiring additional charges.

Providers seek prior authorization through the:

Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services
 Vision Care Unit
 7 Quakerbridge Plaza
 CN 712
 Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Wire-metal frames, eyeglass cases and prescription sunglasses are not covered by the Medicaid program. New glasses can be provided to the child only if the physician's examination reveals a prescription change of + or -.50D. or more. Frames are to be used for a two year period. If a child outgrows the frames, Medicaid may authorize new frames when the provider submits a request for the frames and prior approval is given.

If a child needs glasses but does not want standard frames, the child or another person may purchase frames and have the lenses fit in. The Medicaid provider may bill

Medicaid only for the lenses. The child or other person must pay the full amount for the frames. The provider cannot bill Medicaid for frames and lenses and then charge the child or person the difference between Medicaid reimbursement and the actual cost of the frames. CP&P will not pay for the non-standard frames.

School Eye Examination

9-30-80

Most schools have eye screening examination programs. Once CP&P is advised of the results of any eye examinations, follow-up comprehensive eye examinations can be arranged for Medicaid eligible children according to the Medicaid procedures.

New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired 9-30-80

The New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired is the only statewide agency to provide blind and visually impaired New Jersey residents of all ages with comprehensive services including:

- Education;
- Vocational rehabilitation;
- Employment;
- Eye care;
- Home instruction; and
- Social services.

The Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired is charged with the responsibility for activities in the areas of prevention of blindness and public education. Their eye health services include diverse outreach programs to maintain and restore vision and to prevent blindness. One outreach program is a pre-school vision screening service to detect amblyopia and other eye problems in the pre-school child.

If a child in a CP&P placement has been determined by an ophthalmologist or optometrist to have a serious eye condition such as blindness, near blindness or a disease that may lead to loss of vision, the Local Office refers the child to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

If a child not in a CP&P placement but under CP&P supervision, or the child's caregiver, has a visual impairment, the parent or child's caregiver is encouraged to contact the Commission for the Blind for assistance.